Manufacture of Vehicles at Vehicles Factory, Jabalpur

4899. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative costs of production of vehicles manufactured at the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur and similar vehicles manufactured by private automobile industry, exclusive of all taxes;

(b) whether the cost of the former is less than similar vehicle manufactured in private sector;

(c) if so, the reasons for short-fall of work load with the vehicle factory; Jabalpur;

(d) whether the manufacturing processes and techniques adopted by the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur have not been modernised and updated;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to modernise the above Factory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)(a): to (c). Vehicles similar to those manufactured in the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur are not being manufactured by the private automobile industry. Therefore a valid comparison is not possible. The Army not placing further orders for the existing series of vehicles on Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur in the recent past is not on consideration of prices.

(d) to (f). No significant modernisation of the factory has been undertaken in the recent past since it is linked with a decision, yet to be taken, on the futuristic series of vehicles to be introduced into the Services.

[*Translation*]

Repairs of National Highway No.7

4900. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of the National Highway No. 7 between Mirjapur (Uttar Pradesh) and Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) is not traffic worthy; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the development and repairs of the above stretch of National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The section of National Highway No.7 between Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) and Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) is generally in traffic worthy condition. Development and repairs of National Highways is a continuous process and repair/improvement works are being undertaken from time to time within the resources available.

Widening of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

4901. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated by the Union Government during 1990–91 and 1991–92 to develop and widen the national Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the names of highways included in this programme; and

(c) the agencies to whom this work has been entrusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE